JULY 22, 2025 • VOL XVI • ISSUE #7

GRAB MAGAZINE

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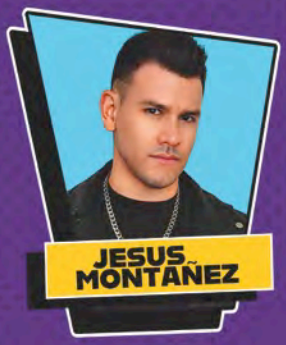
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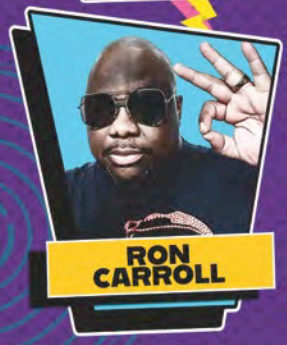
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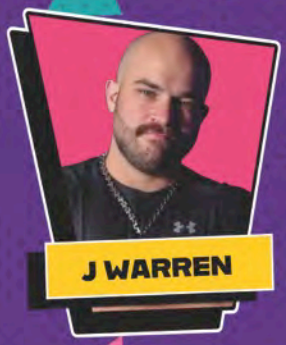
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GRAB DAVID

Photo By Shaun Vadella

David “Delights”: an interview with David Archuleta

By Gregg Shapiro

Whether or not you are a fan of “American Idol,” and a follower of those who have been on the show, sometimes there is a story about one of the competitors that can catch your attention. For many, especially LGBTQ people, David Archuleta is a perfect example. Only a teenager, and still in high school, when made the cut for season seven of the show, Archuleta finished in second place (to David Cook) in 2008. But his story was far from over. Raised in a Mormon household, he came out in 2022 and, along with his mother, left the LDS Church. In August 2025, Archuleta is releasing “Earthly Delights” (davidarchuleta.com), a marvelous six-song EP. He’s following up the release with a multi-city tour during September and October. David graciously made time for an interview in early July. [**David Archuleta performs at Northalsted Market Days on August 10.]**

Gregg Shapiro: We’re speaking on July 1, the day after Pride Month 2025 ended. Did you do anything special to celebrate Pride?
David Archuleta: I performed at quite a few Pride events throughout the US, which was really great. I just came back from Oklahoma City Pride and St. Louis Pride. I performed at World Pride (in DC) and Utah Pride, which is where I where I grew up, which is really special, as well, and Pittsburgh Pride. It's been a month of celebrating.

GS: Your new EP “Earthly Delights” will be released in August. About the EP you’ve said, “I’m in my indulgence mode when it comes to giving into my sensuality.” In what ways do you think the songs on this EP represent that?
DA: I think just the fact that I’ve written romantic songs, period, has been a big step for me. They reference more of a sensual side to life, (which is) something I always avoided. I look back, and I'm like, “Oh, my gosh, this is still pretty wholesome for probably most people’s standards, especially in pop music, when it comes into like romance and sexuality.” But for me, I think it was very hard because I always avoided that by a mile. To me, it feels like I'm indulging. But maybe for a Momon, it's indulgence, because probably for most people, this is just love.

GS: The EP contains the songs “Crème Brulée” and “Dulce Amor” which begs the question, do you have a sweet tooth?
DA: I have definitely gained a sweet tooth. I love my chocolate chip cookies, I love crème brulée, I love ice cream with peanut butter on it. Molten lava cake is also really good. I may need to take a step away from the sweets because singing so much about sweet things and all that, I've gotten a little overwhelmed with the sweets.

GS: In “Dulce Amor” you sing, “You’re my favorite record/Joni

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Mitchell 'Blue'/Wish I had a river/ Had a case of you." Are you a Joni Mitchell fan?
DA: Definitely, yes! Ever since junior high, I've been a fan. I even considered covering a Joni Mitchell song on "American Idol." I was trying to do that, but it didn't work out, so I picked a different song. But I've always loved Joni Mitchell. In the writing session I had during that song ("Dulce Amor"), one of the writers and the producer, we were in the studio, and they had a painting of Joni Mitchell. I said, "Why not just mention her in the song?" So, we did.

GS: You didn't get to sing a Joni song on "Idol," but have you ever covered a song of hers in concert?
DA: I have not. "Both Sides Now" is probably only one of two songs that I can play on guitar. It was the first song I learned on the guitar, and, unfortunately, because I didn't really keep it up, I've forgotten how to play it a bit. But I loved her enough that it inspired me to at least learn a song of hers on the guitar.

GS: The piano and vocal ballad "Home" is gorgeous. Is the message of the song addressed to anyone in particular?
DA: I wanted "Home" to feel like it could be romantic, but I also wanted it to feel like you could apply it to anybody. "Home" is about losing your identity and losing what you felt was your home base, then finding it somewhere else. Whether that's a person. Whether that's someone you fall in love with or someone who just makes you feel safe. I wanted it to describe a feeling anyone can feel, regardless of their sexuality. To be a nod to, when you're in a relationship, a same-sex relationship, a queer relationship, that a lot of the feelings that most people feel, when they feel love for someone, feel loved by someone. It's no different, whether it's a heterosexual or homosexual relationship. The sentiment is the same.

GS: As they say, love is love.
DA: Yes. I guess I wanted to go a little deeper into that so that people could say, "I get it. You feel the same thing that I feel." Because a lot of people don't think that gay relationships are the same. That they're not based on the same principles or the same emotions of pure love. I've very much experienced that, and this is what it is. (It's) for people who, whether they're gay and have that representation, to feel like this is a wholesome, pure love. Straight people could also listen to it, and those who wondered, after I came out, what I got myself into. It's my life and stuff, but also, look at what I get to enjoy. Which I didn't really get to do until I came out, and it feels like home.

Photo By Ryan Welch

GS: You are embarking on a multi-city tour in September and October. How many months out of the year would you say that you are on the road?
DA: I wouldn't say I'm on the road very often. I've done these Pride shows, and I do a few shows here and there throughout the year. I wouldn't say I love to be on the road half of the year, 3/4 of the year. I did that during "American Idol" and the year after "American Idol" and it was a bit much for me. I try to pace myself and give myself a time frame and time limits on how often I'm out. I like to have my own space, my own routine. It's hard to do that when you're constantly on the road. I do love to go out on the road, but just for a certain amount of time. Maybe two to three months out of the year, if that.
GS: Before the tour begins, you're performing at Northalsted Market Days in Chicago on August 10.

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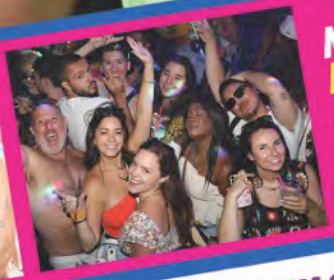

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Photo By Ryan Welch

Have you been to Chicago for Market Days before?
DA: I haven't!

GS: What are you most looking forward to about the Northalsted Market Days show?
DA: I love Chicago. It's such a great city. There's such great food. I love the vibe and the people. Chicago has been a supportive city since the beginning of my career.

GS: Do you have any favorite Chicago haunts that you typically return to when you're in the city?
DA: Man, I had Lou Malnati's (pizza) when I was there.

GS: Yes, that's the best deep-dish pizza anywhere.
DA: It was so good! I was not disappointed. I've had dreams about it. I keep thinking, should I just go back to Chicago just so I can eat it? I didn't realize how much I could love Lou Malnati's.

GS: I'm from Chicago, but I now live in Fort Lauderdale, and every year my mother sends me and my husband a box of the frozen Lou Malnati's pizzas at Christmas.
DA: Ooh!

GS: As part of the tour, you'll also be performing in Salt Lake City on September 19. What's it like for you to do hometown shows?
DA: There's a sense of we've been through a lot of the same things. It's literally like neighbors and friends and family. But even if they're not direct family or neighbors, you've still grown up in the same culture, the same environment, the same kind of belief system. Particularly with people who grew up in the same religion as I did, as Latter-Day Saints. Whether or not they're still in it, you understand each other; why you think the way you do, why you believe what you do. Especially when you've left. I left the religion a few years ago, and to connect with people who've been through that and had to do with the same kind of discrimination, misunderstandings, and judgments. It's nice to connect with everybody. To see people who're still a part of it and say we still love you and support you. They've been through so much with you already, and so they're invested in staying by your side. I think that's a really sweet thing. Before all of the national recognition, they've seen me grow up. It's a special thing, and you get to have fun and celebrate.

GS: I live in Fort Lauderdale, and I know you are originally from Miami. In February 2024, you did a show in our beautiful, queer city of Wilton Manors. Is there anything you'd like to say to your fans in South Florida?
DA: I had such a great time in Wilton Manors. I grew up not very far from there, at least up until kindergarten. I was born in North Miami. We lived a little bit in Hialeah, but then a lot of time in Hollywood. It was definitely nostalgic to go back and to kind of return to my roots, where I had my first years of life. I would love to go back more often because I do love South Florida. I love the Cuban sandwiches and the mamey shakes. I still crave it. Those things that you experience when you're little, the introduction of sensory events, are just a part of you. I'm grateful to have fans from there, and I hope to go back.

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GRAB A GETAWAY

Beaches and Peaches:
Everyone is Welcome in the Art Coast of Michigan
(Your weekend in the Provincetown of the Midwest)

By Bill Malcolm

The Art Coast of Michigan (Saugatuck-Douglas-Fennville in Southwest Michigan) has long been the Midwest's answer to Provincetown. Miles of sandy beaches along Lake Michigan, two great LGBTQ resorts, and lots of shops and restaurants make it a great vacation destination.

WHAT TO DO

Pick blueberries or peaches or pick some up at the farm stands or farmers markets.

Hit the beach: Wau Ke Nah Nature Preserve has a great secluded beach (via a quarter-mile walk through a shaded forest) is my favorite. Just up the road is another great one, West Side County Park. North of Saugatuck is Laketown Beach where you hike up a giant sand dune to eventually get to the beach.

Hang out at the Dunes Resort Pool. Enjoy a DJ, have a cocktail, or play in the pool. They have a great T Dance on Sundays at 4 p.m. complete with barbeque.

Check out the LGBTQ history exhibit at the History Museum in Douglas.

Explore downtown Saugatuck. Rent a bike at Elements.

Go wine tasting at Fenn Valley Vineyards.

Watch the sun go down on a Star of Saugatuck boat or at Oval Beach.

Hike up Mt. Baldy, the giant sand dune. Or take a one-mile hike to the beach at Saugatuck Dunes State Park.

Catch a show at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts

WHERE TO EAT

The What Not Inn is a local favorite. Try the perch basket. They have live music on weekend nights. You will find them at 2405 68th Street in Fennville.

The Lakeshore Party Store has the best pizza plus homemade sandwiches. Located just north of the Dunes Resort at 155 Blue Star Highway. They are open late as well.

WHERE TO STAY

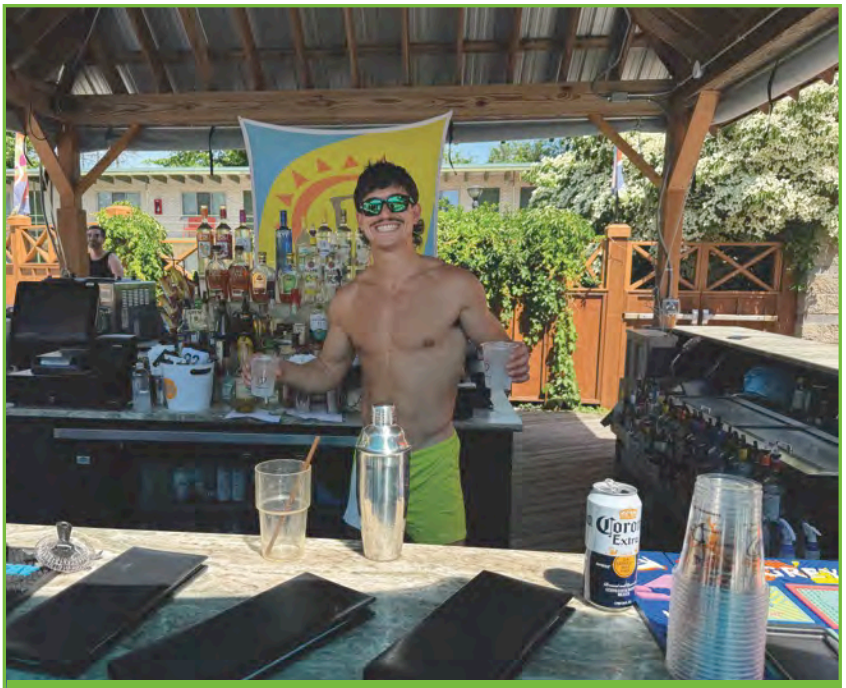
I stayed at a bunkhouse room at The Campit Resort ***(www.CampitResort.com***). It featured a private bath and shared kitchen. My friends enjoyed the Creekside camping area although another friend liked the New Horseshoe camping area. Campit has lodging options for every budget from camp sites to cabins as well as lodge rooms. Everyone is welcome at Campit. They have special events or a theme for every weekend, pool parties at night, and a food truck (as well as a coffee bar food truck on weekends). I love the Mardi Gras weekend which is their busiest. Their camp store has everything you would need. The pool scene is a lot of fun. You can hike around the huge property. You will find them at 118th Avenue in

Fennville.

Dunes Resort in Douglas is another option with motel style rooms as well as men's downstairs rooms plus cabins. The pool and bar scenes are my favorite. Something goes on every night. This includes a T Dance and barbeque at 4 p.m. on Sundays. Tuesday features drag queen bingo and a cookout while Thursday has karaoke. They offer a midweek special on room rates Mondays through Thursdays. Like CampIt, every weekend has a theme. (***Dunesresort.com***)

There's always something fun and new to do in Saugatuck-Douglas-Fennville. I go every year. And bring back some blueberries and peaches.

Bill Malcolm is North America's only syndicated LGBTQ+ travel columnist. Special thanks to The CampIt Resort for their hospitality._



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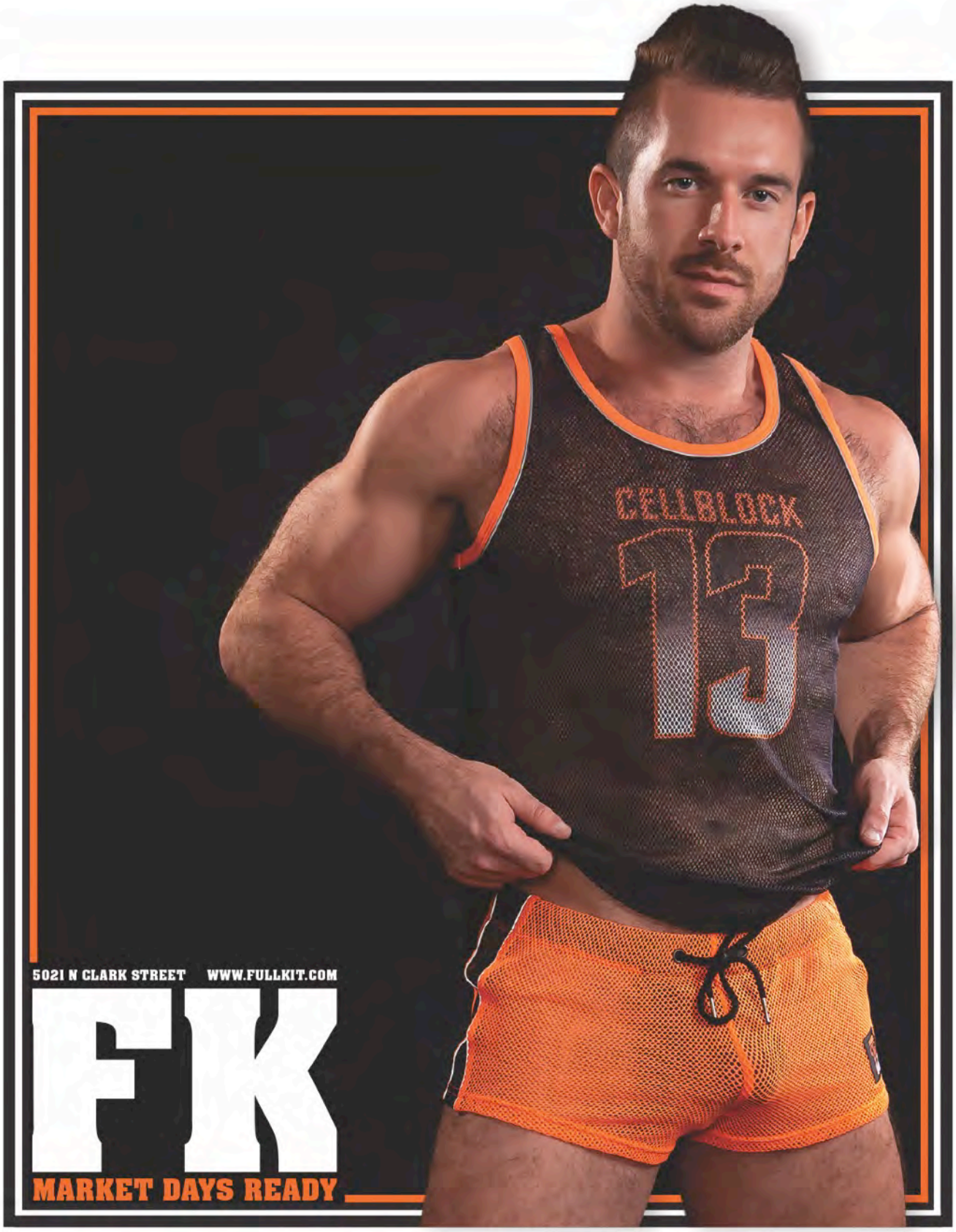
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GRAB DANCE

CHICAGO DANCE HEALTH FUND ANNOUNCES DANCE FOR LIFE 2025 PROGRAM AUGUST 16 AT THE AUDITORIUM

Chicago Dance Health Fund, which provides financial relief for preventative health care and critical medical needs of Chicago dance industry professionals, announces the program of works in Dance for Life 2025. Featuring 10 companies—the most since 1993—the nonprofit organization's 34th annual fundraiser takes place Saturday, August 16 at 6 p.m. at The Auditorium, 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago, followed by an After Party Gala at Venue SIX10, 610 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Aerial Dance Chicago makes its Dance for Life debut performing Arc of the Heart, with choreography and original curveboard concept by Founder and Artistic Director ***Chloe Jensen***, set to music by ***Susie Suh*** and ***Robot Koch***. The piece explores connection (or loss of connection, as in the pandemic social distancing, or as in the loss of a loved one), but the piece takes a hopeful and positive outlook, with the overarching feeling that "even with distance between, we are still connected."
Photo by Kristie Kahns.

Chicago Tap Allstars performs Ninjas in Tutus choreographed by ***Martin "Tré" Dumas*** to music by ***Miles Davis*** and ***Jay-Z***. The piece seamlessly blends groovy, swung rhythms with a hard-hitting surprise hip-hop interlude. With its infectious energy and innovative choreography, Ninjas in Tutus serves as a vibrant celebration of Chicago's rich tap dance community, bringing together artists from diverse backgrounds to create a unified and exhilarating performance. *Photo by Mollie Menuck*.

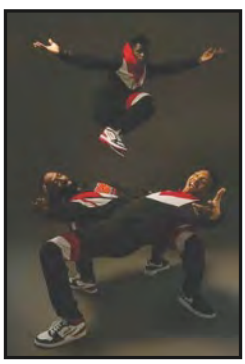
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater offers an excerpt of its 2024 world premiere Sacred Spaces, choreographed by ***Nicole Clarke-Springer*** to music by ***Mahalia Jackson, Bobby McFerrin***, and GMWA Women of Worship. This moving ensemble work draws from the still, inner sanctum where strength, clarity, and resilience are born. Inspired by the personal journey toward spiritual awakening, the piece explores how grounding oneself in quiet reflection can become an act of resistance and renewal in uncertain times. Through dynamic group interplay and moments of introspective grace, Sacred Spaces invites audiences to witness the power of vulnerability, presence, and the sacred act of staying open. *Photo by Jennifer Alice Jackson.*

Giordano Dance Chicago performs excerpts from Red & Black, choreographed by ***Ray Leeper*** to music by ***Moloko, Michael Bublé***, and ***Club De Belugas***. This piece represents the spirit and legacy of Giordano Dance Chicago: Red represents passion, desire, and strength; Black represents power, elegance, and sophistication. *Photo by Anderson Photography.*

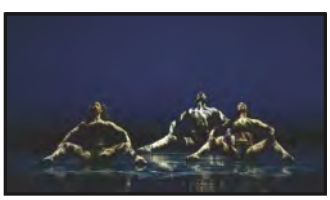
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago shares an excerpt from Blue Soup, choreographed by ***Aszure Barton*** to music by ***Faraualla*** and ***Serge Gainsbourg***. Barton said, "I was (and still am) moved by the sacred power of song and voice; music has a spiritual capacity that does something epic to my heart and my body. Episodic in form, Blue Soup celebrates our idiosyncratic weirdness, and through it I'd like to acknowledge Maya Angelou and David Lynch who have inspired me to practice, stretch, and create.*" Photo by KT Miller Photography.*

The Joffrey Ballet performs Andante, a pas de trois choreographed by ***Yuri Possokhov*** to music by ***Dmitri Shostakovich.*** A frequent choreographer for the Joffrey, Possokhov is known for his expansive choreography and powerful partnering skills. The Chicago Tribune has described his work as among "the canon of 21st century classics." *Photo by Cheryl Mann.*

Movement Revolution Dance Crew brings Devastating Stereo Bots, choreographed by Founder/Artistic Director ***Monternez Rezell,*** with assistance from ***TJ Morris*** and ***Faith Ward***, to music by ***Missy Elliot*** and ***Jabbawockeez.*** This excerpt explores the idea of our radios and stereos coming to life and dancing to the songs we played the most. *Photo by Amy Aiello.*

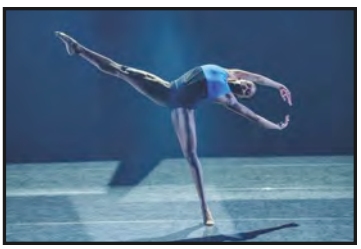


South Chicago Dance Theatre performs Temporal Trance, choreographed by ***Frank Chaves*** to music by ***Peter Gabriel, Vangelis***, and ***Gabrielle Roth and The Mirrors***. A paean to Chaves' dying mother, the work consists of three discrete sections, beginning with a drama-filled structured opening and concluding with a rapidly paced finish. Chaves has said, "I explored ... very different qualities of movement in order to represent the different stages we all go through in death and the loss of a loved one." Photo by Michelle Reid.



Trinity Irish Dance Company Artistic Director ***Mark Howard***'s work, A NEW DAWN, is set to music by ***Winston Damon*** with ***Liz Carroll***. The piece offers folk dance for the future at breakneck speed. *Photo by Chelsea Hoy.*

Visceral Dance Chicago performs Pearl by Founder/Artistic Director ***Nick Pupillo***, set to a mix of solo saxophone and electronic beats by ***Chormatics, Duoteque, Caleb Arredonda, Bot1500***, and ***Nathan Fake***. A powerful and pulsing journey, the work for 10 dancers blends athleticism with intricate partnering and magnetic connections. *Photo by Todd Rosenberg Photography.*



Jonathan E. Alsberry, who made his Dance for Life finale choreographic debut in 2024 with Lift (above), is returning to create a new work featuring dancers from participating companies and more. His inspiration is family in all its forms and the celebration of life, the greatest gift of all. *Photo by Michelle Reid*.

Dance for Life, which benefits the Chicago Dance Health Fund, is a one-night-only event showcasing the city's variety of dance traditions and styles by bringing together professional dance companies and dancers from throughout Chicago, who unite to support their peers by generously donating their time, energy, and artistry. Throughout its history, Dance for Life has raised more than $8 million and presented more than 50 Chicago-based professional dance companies. The performance gives guests an opportunity to experience a range of dance genres, companies of different sizes and histories, and numerous choreographers, artists, and designers in one memorable evening. An additional beneficiary of Dance for Life is ***AIDS Foundation Chicago.*** Dance for Life 2025 Co-Chairs are ***Jamin*** and ***Ekua McGinnis.***

The mission of the Chicago Dance Health Fund is to foster the health and wellness of more than 150,000 Chicago dance professionals by providing financial support for preventive health care and critical medical needs. Anyone working in or retired from a professional capacity within Chicago's dance community—dancers, technical staff, administrators, choreographers, designers, instructors, accompanists, and more—is eligible.

For information, visit ***cdhf.org.*** To make a donation, visit ***secure.qgiv.com/event/dfl2025/.***

Saturday, August 16, 2025

6:00 p.m. Performance
Auditorium Theatre

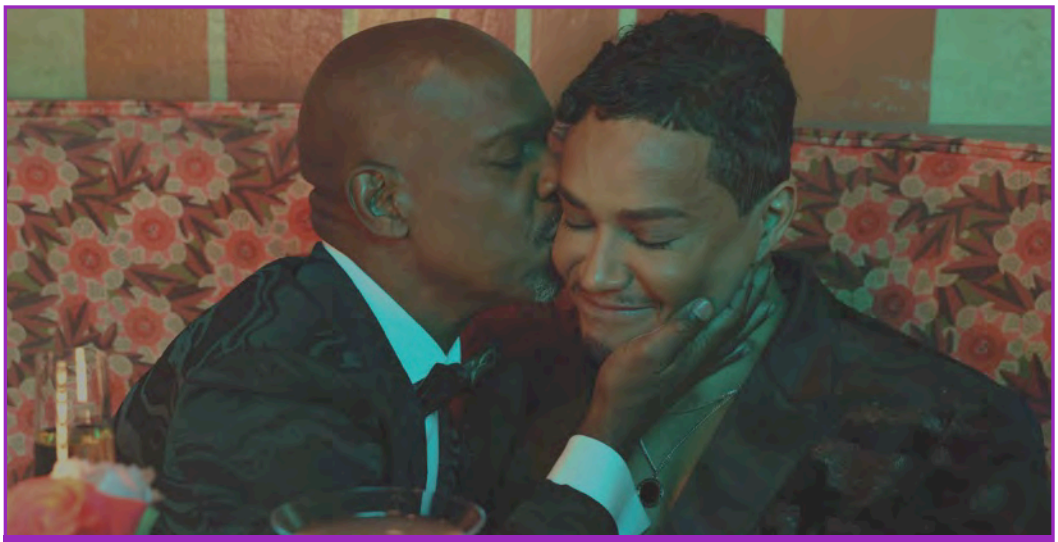
8:00 p.m. After Party Gala
Venue SIX10

Learn about CDHF and purchase tickets with QR code.

CHICAGO DANCE HEALTH FUND

DANCE FOR LIFE

GRAB DOUG



Doug Spearman(L) Photo Courtesy of Paramount+

Taking his Chance: an interview with gay actor Doug Spearman

By Gregg Shapiro

There's no question that when Patrik-Ian Polk's series "Noah's Arc" premiered on Logo 20 years ago, it was a groundbreaking creation. The story of a group of black gay men and their wonderful friendship. The titular arc was that of the cute main character, Noah (Darryl Stephens), and his close-knit circle of friends, including Chance played by gay actor Doug Spearman. This compelling and loving fraternity may, in fact, be what brought viewers back repeatedly, including a 2008 movie, "Noah's Arc: Jumping the Broom," as well as the 2020 "Noah's Arc" short, and now, a new full-length feature "Noah's Arc: The Movie," which debuted on Paramount+/Showtime on June 20. In the movie, filled with equal measures of laughs and tears, Chance, who has faced a devastating loss, finds his dependable friends there, ready to support and comfort him at a moment's notice. I had the pleasure of speaking with Doug Spearman, the morning of the streaming premiere of "Noah's Arc: The Movie."

Gregg Shapiro: Doug, since the early 2000's, when the "Noah's Arc" series premiered on Logo, you have been playing the character of Chance, including in the latest installment, "Noah's Arc: The Movie." What was it about Chance that appealed to you as an actor?

Doug Spearman: When Patrik (-Ian Polk) called me to ask me to play him (Chance), I was at JFK airport in the baggage claim, waiting for a suitcase. He explained what the part was. The thing that stuck out to me was the fact that Chance was in a long-term relationship with another black man. And, they had a child; they had a four-year-old daughter named Kenya. I had never seen two black gay men raise a child on TV before. I thought it was the most revolutionary thing I'd ever seen. I immediately thought I've got to do this because that was something nobody had seen. I thought it was incredibly important to take the part.

GS: "Noah's Arc: The Movie" was, once again, written and directed by Patrik-Ian Polk, who you just mentioned, is the creator of the entire franchise. What's the secret to your long-standing working relationship?

DS: [Laughs] the whole team, all of us, are like a band of brothers. We fight like brothers, we come together like brothers, we hash things out, we talk, because we're all very different from our characters. I think the challenge of playing these guys and then uplifting these men, playing a part, especially something written by Patrik, is like solving a math equation. There's always a challenge that's enjoyable for me as an actor: to try to find out what it is that Patrik wants, and then how do I do it.

GS: I think you do a very good job of it.

***DS*:** Thank you very much

GS: In the years between "Jumping the Broom" and the new full-length movie, many changes have occurred, and the story addresses some of them, including gay widowhood, which is something that the aging community is now confronting, as

well as mental health issues. Please say a few words about how you approached those subjects in the new movie.
DS: I had a lot of loss in my life, right before we started shooting. Two months before we started shooting the first series, my mother died. I was going through the grief process through that whole first season. Since then, I've lost a lot of people in my life. In fact, when we started shooting the second season, the second week we were shooting, my ex died of a heart attack. I was having to fold that into what I was doing with my life on the set and off the set. You've got to show up and you've got to do your work. The first two seasons of "Noah's Arc" are always tinged with the memory of grief. So, when I had to deal with the death that Chance faces (in the new movie), which is a significant death in his life, it wasn't that hard to reach back, especially the scene in the graveyard. It was something that I unfortunately could pull from personal experience.

GS: Shifting gears, the movie features delightful cast surprises, including Jasmine Guy and TS Madison. Did you have a chance to interact with either or both when they were on set?
DS: No, I didn't have any scenes with Jasmine, and I missed her. I wish I had gotten to see her because I actually got to direct Jasmine for a CBS promo shoot for "Queen," back in the early '90s. I had a huge crush on her when she was on "A Different World." So, I really would have liked to reconnect. But TS and I got to see each other every day because I was in all her scenes. It was extraordinary being around somebody like that. That is one outspoken woman!

GS: Even though Beyoncé never makes an appearance in the movie, there's a lot of talk about her. Would you say you are a Beyoncé fan?
DS: Yes! I'm breathing! Yes, I'm a Beyoncé fan. I actually got the chance to meet her. I knew her mom. Her mom was extraordinary to me. She is in the second movie I directed. She also gave us a wedding gown to use in the very first scene of the movie. That family is extraordinarily important to me. Not only just to be a fan, but to be somebody who's gotten to know them and work with them and see how hard they work. I don't think anybody works as hard as Tina or Beyoncé.

Photo Courtesy of Paramount+

GS: There was a recent news item about gay actor Benito Skinner of the Amazon Prime series "Overcompensating" being told not to bother auditioning for straight roles. As an out actor yourself, how important do you think it is for queer characters to be portrayed by queer actors, and vice versa?
DS: Being queer is a multifaceted identity. There's no one kind of queer person. I think finding the best actor that's your first circle of casting. I think one of the joys about being an actor is that you get to play different parts. I play straight guys all the time. Dads and husbands and things like that. I think a lot of people are told not to do it. In fact, I wouldn't be Chance if the actor who was originally cast as Chance hadn't been pulled out of the series by his agents because they didn't want him to play a gay character.

GS: That's amazing! Thank you for sharing that. Without giving away too much, the ending of the movie is a little ambiguous, even ending with a question mark. If there was a "Noah's Arc: The Movie" sequel, would you come back for that?
DS: Yeah! A lot of it would depend on what Chance's journey is going to be like. Patrik and I have conversations like that all the time. He's very interested and supportive of input. I hope I would be, as we all would be, part of the creative growth with these characters. They live in Patrik's head, and he writes them, but we're the ones who have to flesh them out. It's a conversation, it's always a conversation.

GS: You are currently performing in Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid" as part of the New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane. What has this experience been like for you?
DS: It's extraordinary! I started on stage when I was seven. There's nothing like working with a live audience and having that immediacy. I'm working with an extraordinarily talented cast in a really great play, and I have some of the best scene partners I could ever want.

GS: Are there any upcoming film or TV projects you'd like to mention?
DS: I'm still a writer, and I'm still a director, and I've still got scripts that I would like to make. I have a little something that's a cross between "Treme" and "Bridgerton" that I want to do. I'm always trying to figure out what the next thing is.

Photos By Anthony Meade

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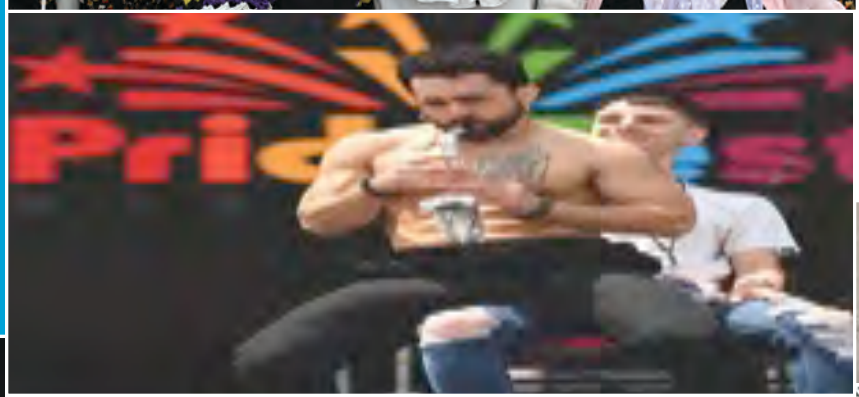

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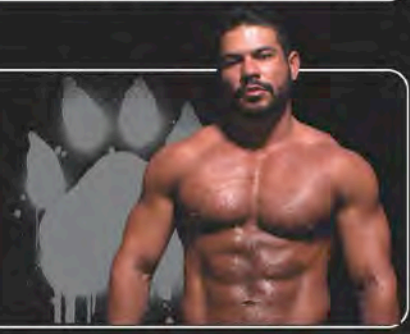

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Daily Specials;

MONDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts***.@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlies:*** Half off Hennessy and Patron 7pm - 11pm ABC Bingo, 11pm Charlie's Live. ***Hydrate:*** Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Well Drinks.***Shakers on Clark:*** Comedy Night $1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, $5 Tecate Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend.

TUESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** $4 You Call It's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm BS Karaoke, 11pm Baddies Block Party. ***Hydrate:*** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. ***Shakers on Clark:*** $3 Domestic Beers. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. ***Steamworks:*** Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/ Wifi, 6-9pm $3 Well Drinks $1 Off call-imports, $3 PBR/Rolling Rock.

WEDNESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Boys and Booze. ***Jackhammer:*** $4 Premium Well Cocktails, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am $5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. ***Shakers on Clark***: Karaoke Night $1 Off Long Islands. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Dua & Ariana last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check,

THURSDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. ***Charlie's:*** 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month: $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm Mother Rebirth, 10pm - Power up Reloaded. 2nd Thursday of the Month: $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Scissor Sisters. 4th Thursday of the Month: $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Vinyl. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots, $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis..***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. ***Shakers on Clark:*** $1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks,Karaoke 10pm-1am. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursday! Pop Music Videos in Glass/Side Bars 9pm-2am, Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month in Main Bar, All Things K-Pop other Thursdays in Main Bar. ***Steamworks:*** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Stoli Mules (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays 70's & 80's Music & Porn By Bijou Video.

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): $4 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's**: 1st Friday of the Month 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Charlie's Presents. 2nd Friday:8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Glow Up. 3rd Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Thirst Trap. 4th Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars
11pm Haus of Charlie's. **Jackhammer:** $8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, $8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** HAPPY HOUR (5-8 PM): $5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $6 Tito's Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR (3-6 PM): $4 Signature Margaritas, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 7/25 Christmas in July Party. 8/1 Man'Nipple'ate Nipple Fetish Play Night, 8/8 Full Moon Party. 8/15 Cowboy Round Up with ILGRA.

SATURDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 2pm-3am. ***Charlie's:*** 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Under the boots tonight. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots, $8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, $8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** HAPPY HOUR (2-5 PM): $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat Drafts, $5 Signature Margaritas, $8 WYNK THC, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, Post-Brunch SaturGay Fun 1pm-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. ***The Sofo Tap:*** HAPPY HOUR: (12-3 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Signature Margaritas, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 5am. 7/26 RIPE PARTY Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T. 8/2 Chicago's Bear Night Midnight Pizza Panic, 8/9 Dungeon Master Night S&M Demo @ Midnight CWB 5pm.8/16 GEAR NIGHT with BLUF/ ChicagoBarber & Bootblack on Duty dress Code in Clubroom BNC 6pm.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $6 Chicago Handshakes, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $6 Jack Products, $4 Domestic Draft, House Shots $2. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 2pm-2am ***Charlie's:*** 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month5pm - 7pm Queeriod,
7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo, y Perreo. 2nd Sunday 5pm -7pm Queeriod Presents Drag U
7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. 4th Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Boyfriend Material,
7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. ***Hydrate:*** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. ***Jackhammer:*** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): $3 House Shots, $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $7 Jackhammered Long Islands, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm $8.95 Martinis .***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $12 Mimosa Carafes, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm ***Shakers on Clark***: $1 off Bloody Mary's, $1 off Mules: Vodka, Tequila, or Whiskey. And $1 off all Revolution beers. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am . ***The Sofo Tap:*** HAPPY HOUR (1-3 PM): $3 House Shots, FREE Hotdogs (while supplies last) ALL DAY SPECIALS: $6 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 4am**.** Beer Bust $2 Draughts & Sodas Clubroom opens 6pm Movie Night 7pm. Clubroom Open.7/27 SPLASH PARTY4-6 Wild Water Battle.

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Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of July 2025

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	Artist	Title
1	George.Alexander	Like I Do
2	Jain x Solomun	Tout Le Monde Est Fou
3	Boris Way X Jaimes	I Will Wait
4	Ofenbach	Need You The Most
5	Jules Liesl	Cherry (Mousse T. Slow Jam Remix)
6	Voltage	Break 'm With You
7	Felix Jaehn X Jhart	Pride
8	Afrojack	Never Forget You
9	James Hype	Don't Wake Me Up
10	Joe Bermudez & Jenna Drey	Halley's Comet (Zillionaire Remix)
11	Nathan Dawe X Shayan	Over You
12	Delayz	Price On Us
13	William Black & Kate Morgan	Save Me
14	Illenium X Hayla	In My Arms
15	Livvy Lauren	Losing It Again (Original Mix)
16	Kaskade X Lipless	State Of Mind
17	Fortella Ft. York	On The Beach
18	Raaban X Hypaton X Toomanylefthands	Last Forever
19	Moby X Blond Ish X Kiko Franco	Natural Blues
20	Avicii & Sandro Cavazza	Forever Yours (Tim's 2016 Ibiza Version)
21	Manyfew	Vacker
22	CMC$ X Terror Jr	Risk It All
23	Vicetone	Over Too Soon
24	Above & Beyond	Start A Fire Ft. Richard Bedford
25	Lena Leon	Seconds To Sunrise (Radio Edit)
26	De Soffer	4am
27	Rihanna	Friend Of Mine
28	Sommer Ray	Lalala (Everybody's Up) (Hedegaard Edit)
29	Annabel Englund	King Size
30	Kiesza	Stays In Bed

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GRAB COLT

Colt Spence Takes the Crown as King of Kink

By Mike Nelson

Colt Spence has quickly risen to become one of the most popular and recognizable stars on KinkMen.com, and it's not hard to see why. A genuine fan of the platform long before he ever stepped in front of the camera, Spence brings an unmistakable passion and authenticity to every scene he films. His journey began in 2022, when he left behind the familiarity of Chicago for a bold new adventure in Las Vegas, where he filmed his first scene with the legendary kink studio. Since then, he's appeared in over a dozen high-intensity scenes, earning a devoted fanbase drawn to his raw enthusiasm, work ethic, and deep respect for fetish performance. As Spence himself puts it, "I've wanted to be an adult film performer for a very long time," and that hunger, combined with his eagerness to learn and push boundaries, has made him a standout figure in the world of BDSM erotica.

Mike Nelson: What do you love most about being part of the kink community?

Colt Spence: I've always had a particular fondness for people who aren't afraid to be themselves unapologetically. I think it takes a lot of nerve to be different in our society and the kink community is a great example of that. Once I became a practicing member myself, I was surprised by how unaccepted it generally still is even among queer people. Despite this, you still see the kink community representing themselves at pride or even hosting their own events which specifically showcase their wants and desires. I think having that kind of attitude for the things we love is exactly what we all need, especially with everything going on in the world today.

MN: Some people outside the community have misconceptions about BDSM and kink. What would you say to those who don't "get it"?

Colt Spence: I would explain to those people that although BDSM isn't for everyone, there's nothing wrong with learning new ways to connect with one another. BDSM requires a massive amount of trust in your partner and it's a great way to connect on a deeper level. If you're at all curious, I highly recommend doing some research on your own, particularly from experienced and reputable sources like KinkMen.com.

MN: Do you have a favorite KinkMen scene?

Colt Spence: There are so many scenes that I've filmed with KinkMen that have a special place in my heart for different reasons. If I had to choose one, I would pick "Payback" starring myself and Heath Halo, directed by Christian Wilde. The scene was filmed out in beautiful North Carolina at a recently-demoed nursing home. I worked in Construction before getting into adult film so it all felt very familiar and understanding the characters was easy for me. Not to mention I got to work with Heath who is such a beautiful man and someone I'd been wanting to work with for a long time. Everything just fell into place so perfectly and the final product is one of my highest rated scenes yet.

MN: Is there a particular scene or partner that stands out as especially intense?
Colt Spence: My scene with Derek Kage. I can't help but to smile every time I watch or even just think about it.

MN: How do you maintain trust and boundaries during a shoot?
Colt Spence: It is much easier to create and maintain trust than it is to find and rebuild it. It's important to connect with your partner ahead of time and feel out their energy and comfort level. As a Dom performer, I know my scene partners are putting a lot of trust in me to respect their limits. I always make sure right from the start that they know I take this very seriously and that I'm genuinely looking out for their wants and needs while we perform. Once that relationship is established you can really have fun with each other and start to push some buttons.

MN: What's your preparation process like before filming?
Colt Spence: I exercise regularly, eat fairly clean and always get plenty of sleep leading up to the day. The most challenging part is making sure my mind is prepared. I don't think people outside of the industry understand how much of a mental balancing act performing on camera can be. I've seen so many performers get in their own way over the years by overthinking their every action. The trick is to keep yourself calm, stay focused on the goal and just have fun with it. Ultimately, we are all here to make the fans happy so they can experience the same pleasure we do.

MN: Are there any kinks or dynamics you've discovered through filming that you now genuinely enjoy off-camera?
Colt Spence: You know, I was shocked to find out how much I enjoy flogging! It's not easy to do in my personal life due to the amount of space it requires and the all noise it makes, so I never got into it much before working with KinkMen. Now, after practicing and performing it in a majority of my scenes, it's safe to say I really enjoy it and even look forward to it every shoot. I'm definitely going to keep following that path in the near future and see where it takes me.

MN: What's something fans would be surprised to learn about you outside of your on-camera persona?
Colt Spence: I think the fans would be surprised to learn that I am a pretty huge gamer. I honestly play about 1-4 hours every single day and lately I've been playing a lot of Fortnite, Overwatch and World of Warcraft. Recently I've been thinking about streaming online while I play so I can share this side of myself with fans, but I also have this bad habit of turning all of my hobbies into jobs so I may just keep it for myself.

MN: What advice would you give to someone considering working in adult entertainment, especially in the kink space?
Colt Spence: As cliché as it may sound, my best advice to new performers is to show up and have fun! You would be surprised by how many times performers come to set in a bad mood or are just completely stuck in their own heads the entire day, plagued by worry or nervousness. If you arrive with great energy and a positive attitude, you are already miles ahead of the pack. We really have such a cool job and although it can definitely be challenging sometimes, you have to enjoy the whole ride and every turn it takes.

MN: What's next for you?
Colt Spence: I am currently preparing to launch my new website ***coltspencexx.com,*** where fans will be able to subscribe to my content directly and watch all of their favorite Colt Spence classics. I also have a bunch of new studio projects I can't wait to share with everyone, including two great scenes with KinkMen coming soon!

For more on Colt visit ***KinkMen.com***

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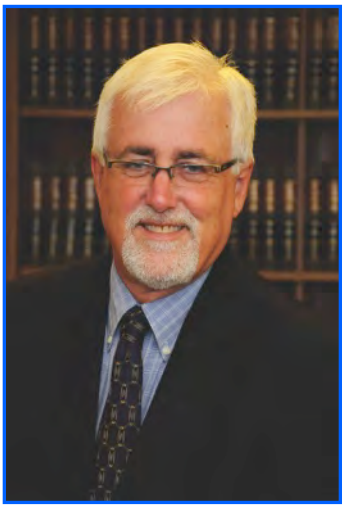

Avoiding Lawsuits When Selling Your House

By Roger V. McCaffre-Boss, Esq.

Q: When I bought my house, I had it inspected by a home inspection service. After I bought the house, I discovered that the house was infested with termites which had caused major structural damage. I spent thousands of dollars fixing the house and brought a lawsuit against the people who sold me the house. Although I fixed the damage, I want to make sure I won't be sued by my buyers when I sell the house and run up even more legal expenses. I see in the real estate listings that more and more houses are being advertised for sale “AS IS.” What do you advise?

A: In today's litigious society people are all too eager to sue anyone for anything. Unfortunately, home sellers and realtors are prime targets for lawsuits. Even if the case is frivolous, buyers will sue and hope that the case will settle before trial or that a jury will find that the seller concealed defects in the house. Such lawsuits can be avoided by using the following safeguards:

• An "as is" sale doesn't prevent lawsuits. An "as is" provision in the contract only tells the buyer that the seller makes no warranty or representation concerning the condition of the property. If the buyer can prove that the "as is" seller knew of an adverse property condition and failed to disclose it, the seller can still be held liable for monetary damages.

Also, unless it is a foreclosure sale or a short sale, buyers are apprehensive about buying a property advertised as “as is.” In every “as is” sale a buyer should have the right to perform an inspection. If the inspection reveals material defects the buyer can either cancel the contract or try to obtain a seller credit or reduction in price.

• You should insist on having the house inspected. Buyers should be present for the inspection so the inspector can point out any defects and how to correct them. If the buyer knows about a defect and there is written evidence such as an inspection report, the chances of a lawsuit decrease.

• When you buy your next house, don't trust the broker to suggest a home inspector. It's in the broker's best interest to suggest a milk toast inspector who won't raise problems with the condition of the property. Good inspectors are also one who have been in the business for over 10 years.

• DISCLOSE, DISCLOSE and DISCLOSE. At the time the seller signs a listing agreement with a realtor, the seller should provide the realtor with a list of all known defects in the house. The realtor should have a form for the seller to complete called the Residential Real Property Disclosure Report which should include every known defect with the house. The realtor will present the defects to the prospective buyer in a neutral way and at the same time stress the positive aspects of the house.

• Sellers and realtors should be careful when giving answers to buyer's questions. If you're not certain of the answer, the correct answer is "I don't know, but I'll find out" and then find out.

Remember the point in selling a home is to end the seller's financial obligation for the property. That's why it’s best for the seller to make a full disclosure to their buyer so the seller won't have to worry if they will be sued after the closing.

Also, avoid incorrect newspaper classified adds. Representing a basement apartment as a legal apartment can be a costly mistake for a seller if the buyer can't rent out the apartment because of a code violation.

Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a gradute of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at ***RVMLawyer@aol.com****. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.*

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR YOUTH
You Are Not Alone
It’s time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:
1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
3. Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
4. Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
• Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
• Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
• Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
• Recent increased agitation or irritability.
If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.
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AUG 8-10

FRIDAY

SAUCY SANTANA
MONÉT X CHANGE

RALPHI ROSARIO • RON CARROLL • BEV RAGE & THE DRINKS • DJ X-TASY • DJ JP
ROD TUFFCURLS AND THE BENCH PRESS • DJ SPEED • RILEY YORK • BRRYCE FERSHER
ROBYN BANKS FIIERCE • KHLOE COULEÉ • DIDA RITZ • VENUS CARANGI • STARR BANKS
GLAMONSTER • BAMBI BANKS COULEÉ • KIMBERLY SUMMER • ALEXANDREA DIAMOND • JR LOVE
IRIS COUTURE SANGRIA LAROSE WHINE • APOLLO VENOM SUMMERS • WINTER DIOR KARMIKAEL

SATURDAY

KEKE PALMER
KIESZA • SAM STAR • BROOKE EDEN

DANNY VERDE • JOE GAUTHREAUX • J WARREN • IPOP • TOO MUCH MOLLY BAND • RADIO GAGA
THE WEEKEND RUN CLUB • 3 MARTINI JEANNIE • S@N!C HEALING • THE DIVAS • DJ X-TASY
SECOND CITY OUTLAWS • CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE • GAVIN QUINN • MARTIN • CHACOBEATS
IAMBRANDON • JANKY B2B VIRAGO • RYAN WILLING • DJ RON GERONIMO • JDN
ROBYN BANKS FIIERCE • GINA BELLE • DRAGLICIOUS WITH MIMI MARKS & KHLOE COULEÉ

SUNDAY

DAVID ARCHULETA
JOE DOMBROWSKI
SASHA COLBY

ALEX ACOSTA • JESUS MONTANEZ • SAM GEE • 16 CANDLES • HELLO WEEKEND
DANCING QUEEN: AN ABBA SALUTE • DISCO CIRCUS • FEARLESS: A TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR
JAGGED LITTLE PILL: ALANIS TRIBUTE • YACHT ROCK-ETTES • CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE
FIREBRAND • ROBYN BANKS FIIERCE • BATTY DAVIS • CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS
KIDRIOT • DJ X-TASY • MOBEETHICC • DJ ZEL • CA$H ERA • VIRAGO • MISS TOTO
DJ RON GERONIMO • DJ SPEED • DRAGLICIOUS WITH MZ RUFF N STUFF & DIDA RITZ

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MARKET DAYS

CHICAGO ✶✶✶✶

AUG 8-10

FRIDAY AUGUST 8TH

Addison Stage

5:00pm – DJ Speed
5:00pm – Market Days Drag Show
6:00pm: Monet X Change
6:45pm – Market Days Drag Show
9:00pm – Saucy Santana

Cornelia Stage

5:30pm – Ron Carroll
7:30pm – Ralphi Rosario

Roscoe Stage

Hosted by Robyn Banks Fiierce
5:00pm – Brryce Fersher
6:15pm – Riley York
7:30pm – DJ JP
8:45pm – DJ X-tasy

Belmont Stage

5:00pm – DJ X-tasy
5:45pm – Bev Rage & The Drinks
7:30pm – Rod Tuffcurls & The Benchpress

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GRAB HOLLY

Aly Learns a Lesson

By Holly Maholm

Xandra and I were sitting in a booth at Donut Time, where we were struggling with a crisis: Donut Time was not making enough sales to enable us to pay our bills, and we were slowly going bankrupt. While we schemed what to do, I noticed Tracy come in the door and go over to Aly at the register. She reached down to Grab a donut box from beneath the register, opened the lid, and showed him the contents.

His face went pale, after which he gently took possession of the box from Aly. Then walking over to our booth, he pulled up a chair and placed the box reverentially in front of us. Both Xandra and I looked in, and in seconds we knew Donut Time was saved, and what misadventure had brought us to this point.

Now… before Aly came to Donut Time, she was a waitress at The Watering Hole, located across the square. That establishment is laid out as two separate rooms joined only at the hostess position just inside the entrance. On the left was a "casual eatery" offering burgers, wings, fries and soft drinks to all – including families with children. On the right was your basic neighborhood bar, offering beer, spirits and oblivion to whoever could pay the freight (this is where Aly worked, on account of her exceeding hotness).

Working in the bar, Aly learned all she needed to know about waitressing (except for those skills – approximating ju-jitsu – which she employed to keep the patrons' hands off her naughty bits). One thing Aly learned was that the bar had a policy of allowing its "regulars" (who were not necessarily the heaviest drinkers, but I'm not saying they weren't, either) to "run a tab." And Tracy – being among the most "regular" of "regulars" (and let's be honest, a drinker whom all would agree is among the heaviest in his weight class) – always ran a tab.

It was obvious what had happened: Aly was habituated to putting all of Tracy's purchases on his tab, and it mattered not to Aly that the tab represented purchases of coffee and donuts, rather than cheap bar whiskey and tropical drinks sporting little colorful paper umbrellas.

Instantly, Tracy rushed to apologize in words which… had he carelessly shot my dog, would have been entirely appropriate, but which in this case I felt were excessively craven. Aly – who had joined us in the booth, and who had grasped her part in this little tragedy – blushed in shame to observe Tracy's mortification. She started crying; upon which all rushed to comfort her. "Everything's okay. You can stop crying, now."

We spent the next hour reassuring each other that it was all a big, silly mistake and "No harm done." (The root of the problem, we all decided, was that Aly was never given the chore of asking customers to Settle their Tab, and as a result she innocently missed out on that part of the Theory and Practice of Tabs.) We all forgave her.

Now that Xandra and I had had a great weight lifted from our shoulders (and a previously unknown Receivable added to our balance sheet), we saw no need to spoil the atmosphere of "Good Friends Sharing Good Times" by opening that cardboard box sitting before us, in order to see how large that Unexpected Receivable might be. It was a moment that Xandra and I were savoring, and we were in no hurry to spoil our happy anticipation by getting out the little adding machine at the register to total up Tracy's tab.

But Tracy, being undeniably human (no matter how many key Unicorn traits he displayed), likewise began to react in an all-too-human manner to that cardboard box sitting in front of him (and holding many little slips of paper upon which were recorded his Debts to Caffeine, Powdered Sugar and Excusable Neglect). He began to feel a "certain amount" of regret for his gluttony (where coffee and breakfast pastries were concerned). Did he… now long after the fact, not find a certain "bitterness" in those coffees, and a certain "stale aftertaste" in those sugary treats he had so joyfully picked out of the glass cabinet next to the register?

Nevertheless, Tracy being Tracy, you may be sure there was no bitterness in his heart for Donut Time, or for those of us who make our living there, or – especially – for Aly, who had served every coffee and treat with a warm and cheerful smile.

At last came a lull in the conversation, which Tracy broke as follows: He reached out in front of him and closed the lid on that box of unredeemed tabs. He spoke: "Normally, now is the time you would total up my tab and ask me to 'settle up.' But I wonder… would you be interested in doubling your money?"

(To be continued)

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at ***www.hollymaholm.com.***

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AUG 8-10

SATURDAY AUGUST 9TH

Addison Stage

12:00pm – DJ Ron Geronimo
1:00pm – Weekend Run Club
2:30pm – Sam Star
3:00pm – Second City Outlaws
3:30pm – Brooke Eden
4:15pm – Chicago Spirit Brigade
4:45pm – 3 Martini Jeanie
6:00pm – Kiesza
7:15pm – The Divas
9:00pm – Keke Palmer

Cornelia Stage

12:30pm – Draglicious Hosted by Mimi Marks & Khloe Coulee
3:30pm – J Warren
5:30pm – Joe Gauthreaux
7:30pm – Danny Verde

Roscoe Stage

Hosted by Robyn Banks Fiierce
12:00pm – Gavin Quinn
1:15pm – ChacoBeats
2:30pm – iamBrandon
4:15pm – Ryan Willing
5:30pm – Janky + Virago
7:00pm – Martin
8:30pm – JDN

Belmont Stage

Hosted by DJ X-tasy
12:00pm – DJ X-tasy
1:00pm – S@n!c Healing
2:30pm – Chicago Spirit Brigade
3:00pm – Radio Gaga
5:30pm – iPop
8:00pm – Too Much Molly Band

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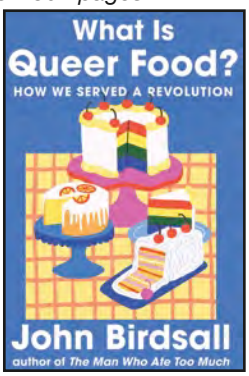
GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"What is Queer Food? How We Served a Revolution" *by John Birdsall c.2025, W.W. Norton $29.99 304 pages*



When you first pick up "What is Queer Food?" by John Birdsall, you might miss the subtitle: "How We Served a Revolution." It's that second part that's what's important.

Starting with a basic gay and lesbian history of America, Birdsall shows how influential and (in)famous twentieth-century queer folk set aside the cruelty and discrimination they received, in order to live their lives. They couldn't speak about those things, he says, but they "sat down together" and they ate.

That suggested "a queer common purpose," says Birdsall. "This is how who we are, dahling, This is how we feed our own. This is how we stay alive."

Readers who love to cook, bake or entertain, collect cookbooks, or use a fork will want this book. Its stories are nicely served, they're addicting, and they may send you in search of cookbooks you didn't know existed.

Sometimes, though, you don't want to be stuck in the kitchen, you want someone else to bring the grub. ***"Dining Out" by Erik Piepenburg*** is an often-nostalgic, lively look at LGBTQIA-friendly places to grab a meal – both now and in the past.

In his introduction, Piepenburg admits that he's a journalist, "not a historian or an academic," which colors this book, but not negatively. Indeed, his journeys to "gay restaurants" – even his generous and wide-ranging definitions of the term – happily influence how he presents his narrative about eateries and other establishments that have fed protesters, nourished budding romances, and offered audacious inclusion.

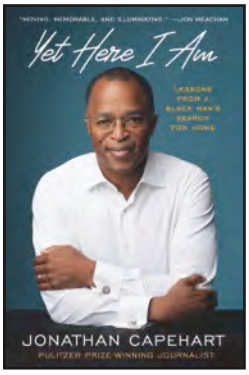
Here, there are modern tales of drag lunches and lesbian-friendly automats that offered "cheap food" nearly a century ago. You'll visit night clubs, hamburger joints, and a bath house that feeds customers on holidays. Stepping back, you'll read about AIDS activism at gay-friendly establishments, and mostly-gay neighborhood watering holes. Go underground at a basement bar; keep tripping and meet proprietors, managers, customers and performers. Then take a peek into the future, as Piepenburg sees it.

The locales profiled in "Dining Out" may surprise you because of where they can be found; some of the hot-spots practically beg for a road trip.

After reading this book, you'll feel welcome at any of them.

If these books don't shed enough light on queer food, then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for help finding more. The booksellers and librarians there will put cookbooks and history books directly in your hands, and they'll help you find more on the history and culture of the food you eat. Grab them and you'll agree, they're pretty tasty reads.

"Yet Here I Am: Lessons from a Black Man's Search for Home" by Jonathan Capehart c.2025, Grand Central. $30.00 272 pages



One hand over the other.

That's how you climbed to where you are now. One rung at a time, hand over hand until you reach the intended goal. Yes, sometimes you went backward before you ascended again or you had to move sideways past a barrier. And sometimes, as in the new memoir, "Yet Here I Am" by Jonathan Capehart, you got a hand up.

His mother refused to talk about it.

When little Jonathan Capehart inquired about his father, who died just months after Capehart was born, he was met with a look that told him not to ask again. He didn't learn the truth until he was well out of childhood: his father had left Capehart's mother long before Capehart's birth, and though the man visited afterward, "he didn't stay long…."

The loss stung but things turned out well anyhow. Capehart had many father figures throughout his life, paternal relatives who kept him in the family loop, and his maternal grandpa who played a big part of Capehart's upbringing. Young Capehart spend his summers in Severn, North Carolina, playing, visiting, gathering lessons and wisdom from his mother's parents and aunts. In Severn, extended family was everywhere, and it's where many of Capehart's best childhood memories spring.

He also has many cherished memories of his mother, and books. He was always a reader, and schoolmates recognized it. They also "knew I was a little 'funny'," he muses because, at ten years old, he knew he was gay. His mother had had to teach him the hard truths in "how to be Black in white spaces" but college friends gave him safety for "self-discovery."

Also at the tender age of ten, Capehart became fascinated with electronic media, and decided that he wanted to work at NBC, later interning at the Today show for two summers. At nineteen, he met a mentor who demanded excellence, and who shaped Capehart's career.

Twelve years later, that same mentor offered Capehart his own MSNBC show…

As memoirs go, "Yet Here I Am" is a solid okay.

It's not earth-shattering, nor is it wildly fascinating. It's not exciting or heart-wrenching or even all that emotional, but it's not terrible, either. Overall, it's smack-center, a "5" on a one-to-ten scale, and there we are.

Moving from his middle-class childhood in which he vaguely understood the racism present in his mother's hometown, to a wildly successful career in media and the mentors who helped him get where he is, author Jonathan Capehart shares his story with a casual tone that's calm and matter-of-fact. Readers get a nice look at the workings of journalism and what it's like to win a Pulitzer Prize, but if you're expecting the kind of excitement you want in a deadline-racing newsroom, it's not here; instead, Capehart writes in a decidedly unruffled manner that's really pretty tame.

Still, Capehart fans will absolutely want to read this memoir for its thoughtfulness and its satisfactory ending. Not a fan? Then "Yet Here I Am" could be a long climb.

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2:15pm – Chicago Spirit Brigade
2:45pm – Sasha Colby
3:45pm – Dancing Queen: An ABBA Salute
5:45pm – Joe Dombrowski
7:00pm – Fearless: A Tribute to Taylor
9:00pm – David Archuleta

Cornelia Stage

12:30pm – Draglicious Hosted by Mz Ruff N Stuff & Dida Ritz
3:30pm – Sam Gee
5:30pm – Jesus Montanez
7:30pm – Alex Acosta

Roscoe Stage

Hosted by Robyn Banks Fiierce
12:00pm – KidRiot
1:30pm – mobeethicc
3:00pm – DJ Zel
5:00pm – Ca$h Era
7:00pm – Virago
8:30pm – Miss Toto

Belmont Stage

Hosted by DJ X-tasy
12:00pm – DJ X-tasy
1:00pm – Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
2:00pm – Sixteen Candles
4:30pm – Chicago Spirit Brigade
5:00pm – Disco Circus
6:30pm – Jagged Little Pill: Alanis Tribute
8:00pm – Hello Weekend

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THE OBAMA FOUNDATION UNVEILS NEW ARTIFACTS FROM LANDMARK MARRIAGE EQUALITY CASE TO BE FEATURED AT THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

In honor of the 10th anniversary of Obergefell v. Hodges, the Foundation shares select artifacts that will be on display at the Center to inspire visitors to bring change home to their own communities.

On June 26, 2015, America changed like a thunderbolt when the Supreme Court held in favor of marriage equality – ruling same-sex couples had the constitutional right to marry. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of that landmark decision, The Obama Foundation is sharing several personal artifacts tied to the historic case.

These items – on loan and donated by Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in Obergefell v. Hodges – will be part of a larger exhibit that visitors can view inside the Museum at the Obama Presidential Center when it opens in 2026. They include:

Jim Obergefell's wedding ring: This ring is composed of Jim and John's wedding bands, stacked and fused together. A small notch inside the band holds some of John's ashes. (On loan from Jim Obergefell)

The bow tie Jim Obergefell wore the day of the Supreme Court decision: (On loan from Jim Obergefell)

Jim and John's official marriage certificate: (Donation from Jim Obergefell)

"These mementos are more than historic artifacts. They are symbols that tell the human story behind the landmark Marriage Equality decision by the U.S. Supreme Court – a story of love, loss, and the relentless pursuit of dignity and equality," said Valerie Jarrett, CEO of The Obama Foundation. "When visitors come to the Obama Presidential Center and see the Same Sex Marriage exhibit they won't just learn about its history – they will feel it. We are grateful to Jim for enabling us to share their story with the world. They proved that ordinary people are capable of doing extraordinary things. Jim and John's love and determination will inspire everyone to bring change home to their own communities."

"This case meant everything to me and the memory of my late husband, John Arthur. For the first time in my life as an out gay man, I felt like an equal American," said Jim Obergefell. "I've had the joy of allowing several artifacts to be displayed at the Obama Presidential Center Museum. That

marriage license — it represents our hopes and dreams of almost 21 years to be able to say, 'I do,' and have it mean something. The hope that that gives to younger people that they can marry the person they love."

To learn more or explore the Obama Presidential Center, visit: **obama.org/presidential-center**

Certificate of Marriage
State of Maryland
Anne Arundel County (02)

License Number
187517
Valid beginning at 6:00:00 am on
July 11, 2013

I Hereby Certify that on the 11th day of July, 2013 The following persons were by me united in marriage at GLEN BURNIE City or Town. In accordance with the License of the Clerk of the Court in the jurisdiction shown above.

Name James Robert Obergefell Age 47 Birthplace Ohio
Residence Cincinnati (Town or City) (County) Ohio (State) Marital Status Single
Name John Montgomery Arthur Age 47 Birthplace Illinois
Residence Cincinnati (Town or City) (County) Ohio (State) Marital Status Single
Relationship to spouse if any None

Paulette L. Roberts
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Minister, Universal Life Church
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Address of Authorized Officer

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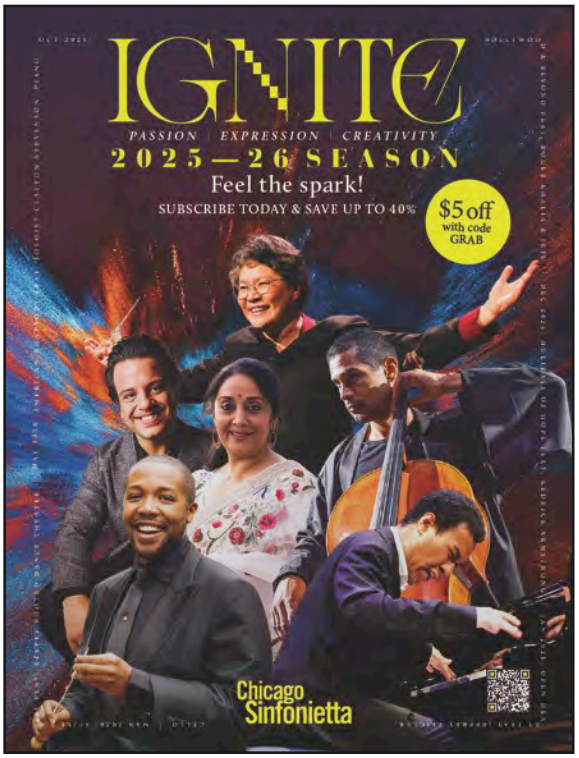
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Bohemia is back and it's louder, bolder, and more alive than ever. Highland Park Players proudly presents *RENT,* Jonathan Larson's Tony Award–winning rock musical that redefined a generation. Bursting with heart, grit, and unforgettable music, RENT runs July 18–27 at the McGrath Performing Arts Center, 3424 Illinois Road, Wilmette. Showtimes are 7:30 PM on July 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26, and 2:00 PM on July 20, 26, and 27.

"RENT" is a powerful celebration of love in all its raw, real, and revolutionary forms. It's a story about the courage to be yourself, to speak out, and to find your community," says director Travis Monroe Neese. "This show has lived in my heart for years and bringing it to life with this incredible cast and community is nothing short of electric. Whether it's your first time experiencing it or your fiftieth, this production will move you, uplift you, and inspire you to live like there's no day but today!"

The cast includes ***Steven Labine*** (Mark), ***Roberto Mata*** (Roger), ***Catherine Rodriguez O'Connor*** (Mimi), ***Gabriel Levi*** (Collins), ***Kameron Rojas-Schueneman*** (Angel), ***Amanda Donohoe*** (Maureen), ***Taylor Morris*** (Joanne), and ***Agustin Quijije*** (Benny), alongside a powerhouse ensemble bringing the East Village to life with explosive energy.

Tickets on sale now at **www.highlandparkplayers.org**

STELLAR CREATIVE TEAM AND TALENT TO STAR IN UPTOWN MUSIC THEATER'S *HAIRSPRAY* JULY 25TH THROUGH AUGUST 3RD

Broadway's Tony Award-Winning Best Musical Hairspray is set to take the Uptown Music Theater stage this summer in Highland Park, IL, directed and choreographed by Tor Campbell, music directed and conducted by Aaron Kaplan, and featuring the acclaimed 21-piece JAM orchestra.

Hairspray is a feel-good celebration of individuality, community, and big dreams. Set in 1962 Baltimore, the story follows big-hearted teenager Tracy Turnblad as she sets out to dance on "The Corny Collins Show"—and ends up launching a mission to integrate the program, challenge outdated beauty standards, and bring people together through the power of music and movement. Filled with infectious songs, big laughs, and powerful themes of love, acceptance, and inclusivity, Hairspray is the ultimate Broadway musical for audiences of all ages.

The cast features ***Grace Hall*** as Tracy Turnblad, ***Scott Spector*** as Edna Turnblad, ***Corey Mills*** as Wilbur Turnblad, ***Lily Ramras*** as Penny Pingleton, ***Erin Kelley*** as Prudy Pingleton, ***Abraham Deitz-Green*** as Link Larkin, ***Ethan Lupp*** as Corny Collins, ***Rebecca Mactaggar***t as Amber Von Tussle, ***Emma Jean Eastlund*** as Velma Von Tussle, ***Ajene Cooks*** as Seaweed J. Stubbs, ***A'mia Imani*** as Little Inez Stubbs, and ***Sharon Miles*** as Motormouth Maybelle.

The production is directed and choreographed by ***Tor Campbell,*** a Milwaukee native and Northwestern University MFA graduate in Stage Directing whose dynamic career spans continents and prestigious institutions. Campbell has taught and directed at UC Irvine, Juilliard, and Lake Forest College. He currently serves as the Northwestern Directing Fellow at Goodman Theatre and has worked with Northlight Theatre and the Goodman's producing team for the 2024–2025 season.

Tickets are available for purchase at **www.uptownhp.org.** or by calling the Box office: 312-488-9408.

THE BIG REVEAL LIVE SHOW WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY SASHA VELOUR AUGUST 1–3, IN STEPPENWOLF'S DOWNSTAIRS THEATER

Steppenwolf Theater presents Global drag icon *Sasha Velour* (HBO'S we're here, RuPaul's Drag Race) in her latest theatrical spectacular, T*he Big Reveal Live Show,* coming to Chicago following sold out shows across the U.S. and Europe, Velour will take the Steppenwolf Stage for Three Performances Only August 1-3 in Steppenwolf's downstairs theater, 1650 N. Halsted.

Known for her emotional, thoughtful and crowd-shaking reveals, *The Big Reveal Live Show.* Takes things to a whole new level as velour goes further than she ever has before. Grounded in Classic theater, The show takes on many forms over the course of 90 minutes: High concept Lip Sync performances, artful oration, childhood film footage, Video Art and more. *The Big Reveal Live Show* shows this superstar at her most playful and hilarious. With a whip smart comedic script and side-splitting gags, Velour uses comedy as a way to disarm audiences and hit them with emotional truths. The show's drag performances are accompanied by a diverse soundtrack ranging from Stevie Wonder to Britney Spears, Stephen Sondheim to Deep Purple.

Tickets are now available at **Steppenwolf. org/TheBigReveal** or by calling the Box Office at 312) 335-1650.

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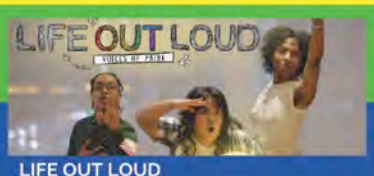

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Midway
Maps
N
W
E
S
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GRAB A REALTOR

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Paul Heyer, *Drinking Water (Cowboy)*, 2017. Oil, acrylic, and glitter on metallic silk; 84 × 72 1/16 in. (213.4 × 183 cm). Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Gift of Katherine S. Schamberg by exchange, 2018.9. © 2017 Paul Heyer. Photo: Nathan Keay, © MCA Chicago.